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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,278	09/30/2003	Naoki Nakane	11-189	4730
23400	7590	06/29/2004	EXAMINER	
POSZ & BETHARDS, PLC 11250 ROGER BACON DRIVE SUITE 10 RESTON, VA 20190			DAVIS, OCTAVIA L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2855	
DATE MAILED: 06/29/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/673,278	Applicant(s) NAKANE ET AL.	
	Examiner Octavia Davis	Art Unit 2855	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/30/03</u>	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____
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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 – 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Laidlaw et al.

Regarding claim 1, Laidlaw et al disclose a torque sensing device comprising a first shaft 14 and a second shaft 16 connected coaxially, a torsion bar 18 converting a torque applied between said first shaft and said second shaft into a torsion displacement, a multi-polar magnet 20 fixed to said first shaft, magnetic yokes 21 fixed to said second shaft and disposed in a magnetic field 70 generated by said multi-polar magnet (See Col. 3, lines 4 – 33), collecting rings 50, 52 disposed along an outer surface of said one set of magnetic yokes and opposed to each other via an air gap 46 in an axial direction (See Col. 4, lines 3 – 7), and a magnetic sensor 48 for detecting the density of magnetic flux generated in said air gap (See Col. 3, lines 64 – 66), wherein a pair of flux brushes 42, 4 can include a bottom arcuate surface 54 that is adapted to magnetically engage the arcuate outer surface 56 of the flux rings (See Col. 4, lines 12 – 18).

Regarding claim 2, said magnetic shield 56 has side portions covering side surfaces of said flux collecting rings (See Fig. 8).

Regarding claim 3, the magnetic shield is integrated with the collective rings (See Fig. 8).

Regarding claim 4, the magnetic shield directly covers the outer cylindrical surface of the flux collecting rings (See Fig. 8).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

LeMarquand et al (5,705,756) teach a differential torque measuring device.

Uryu et al (6,729,433) teach an automotive electrically powered steering device.

Satoh et al (5,641,916) teach a torque sensor fit for use in vehicular power steering systems.

Nagao et al (6,026,925) teach an improved electrically driven power assisting device.


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to examiner Octavia Davis at telephone number (571) 272 - 2176. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursdays (9:00 - 5:00), Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Lefkowitz, can be reached on (571) 272 - 2180. The fax phone number for the organization where this application where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872 - 9306.



OD/2855

6/21/04



EDWARD LEFKOWITZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800